

Immunoterapia. Quadri clinici e gestione delle tossicità.

CRITICITÀ

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Immunotherapy : the new era in (N)SCLC treatment

The use of immune checkpoint inhibitors represents one of the most exciting breakthroughs in the history of lung cancer therapy:

- Significant improvement in OS
- Significant improvement in PFS
- Long lasting responses
- Significant tumor shrinkage → symptoms relief



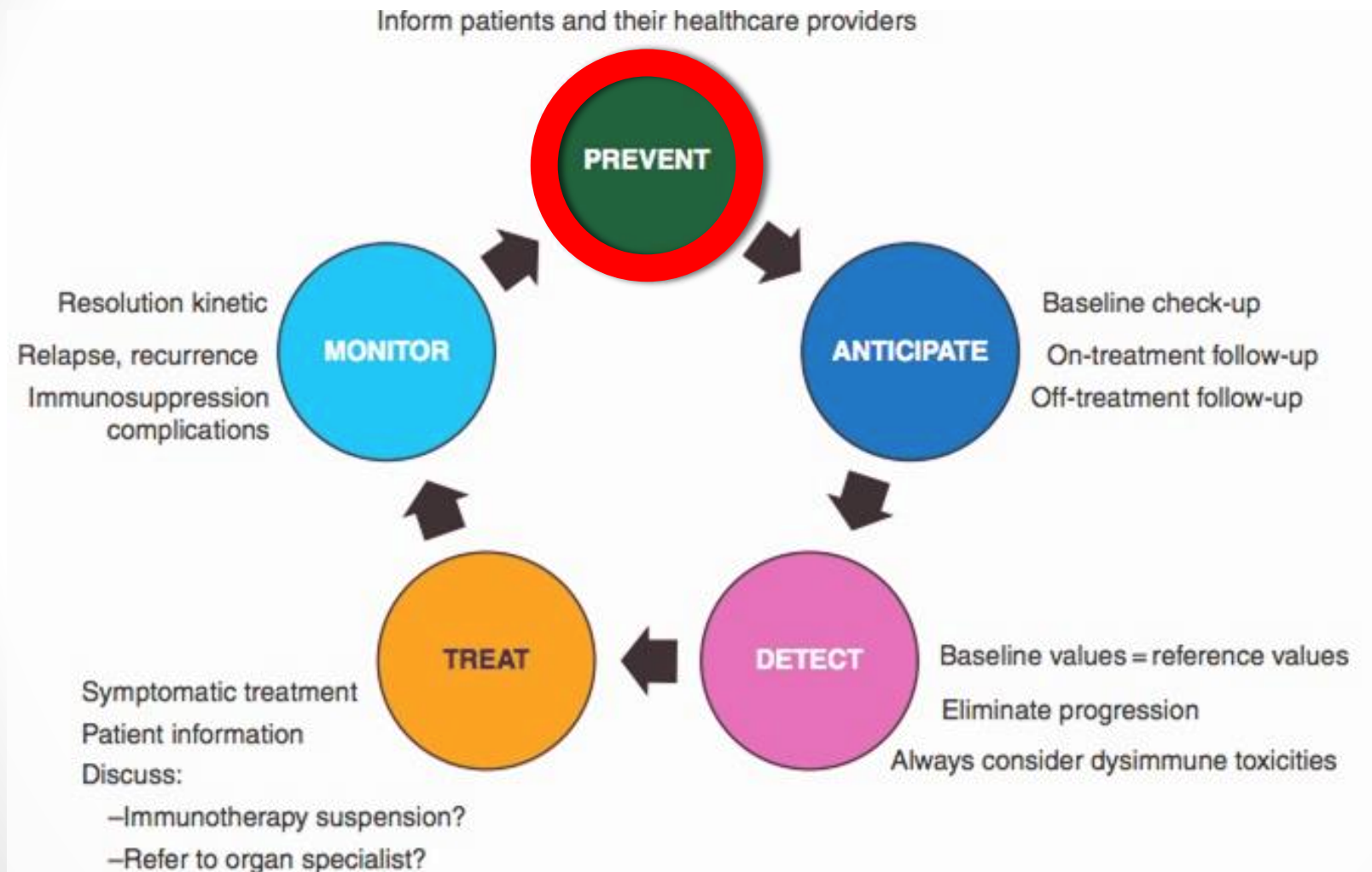
Immunotherapy : the new era in (N)SCLC treatment

The use of immune checkpoint inhibitors implicates a new toxicity profile

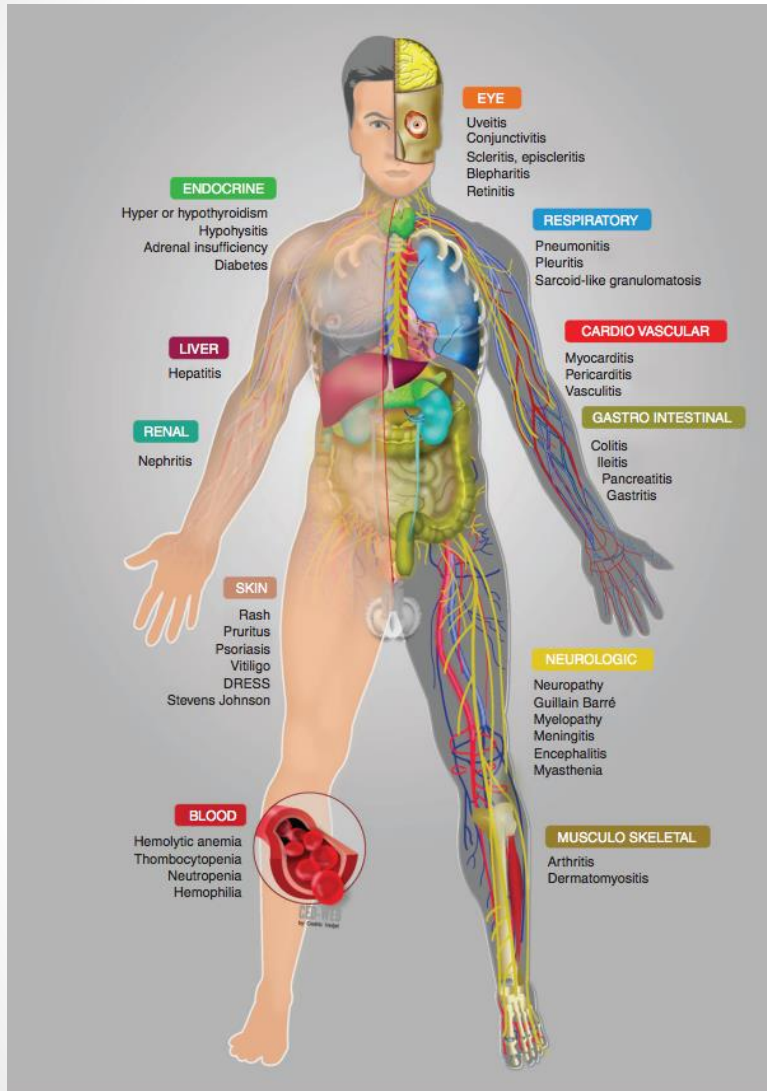
- Different mechanisms of adverse events' development (IrAEs)
- New protocols for the management of the toxicity
- Requirement of multidisciplinary team for the management of IrAEs



The five pillars of immunotherapy toxicity management



Prevent (1): knowledge of the drug



Before prescribing immune-checkpoints to their patients, oncologists need to be aware of their **spectrum of toxicity**:

- Eye
- Endocrine
- Respiratory
- Cardio Vascular
- Liver
- Renal
- Skin
- Neurologic
- Musculo-Skeletal
- Blood

Prevent (2): knowledge of the patient

- Personal and family history of autoimmune diseases
- Tumoral infiltration
 - Pulmonary lymphangitis
 - Carcinomatous meningitis
- History of chronic infection (HBV, HCV, HIV)
- Co-medications

Prevent (3): inform patients and their care givers

- Pts and their caregivers should be informed of their specific risk of immune-related toxicity development
- Occurrence of new symptoms or worsening of preexistent symptoms should be rapidly reported to the physician
- Pts must be informed tha IrAEs may occur at any time: at the beginning, during or after treatment discontinuation

Prevent (4): knowledge of the frequency and timeline occurrence of IrAEs

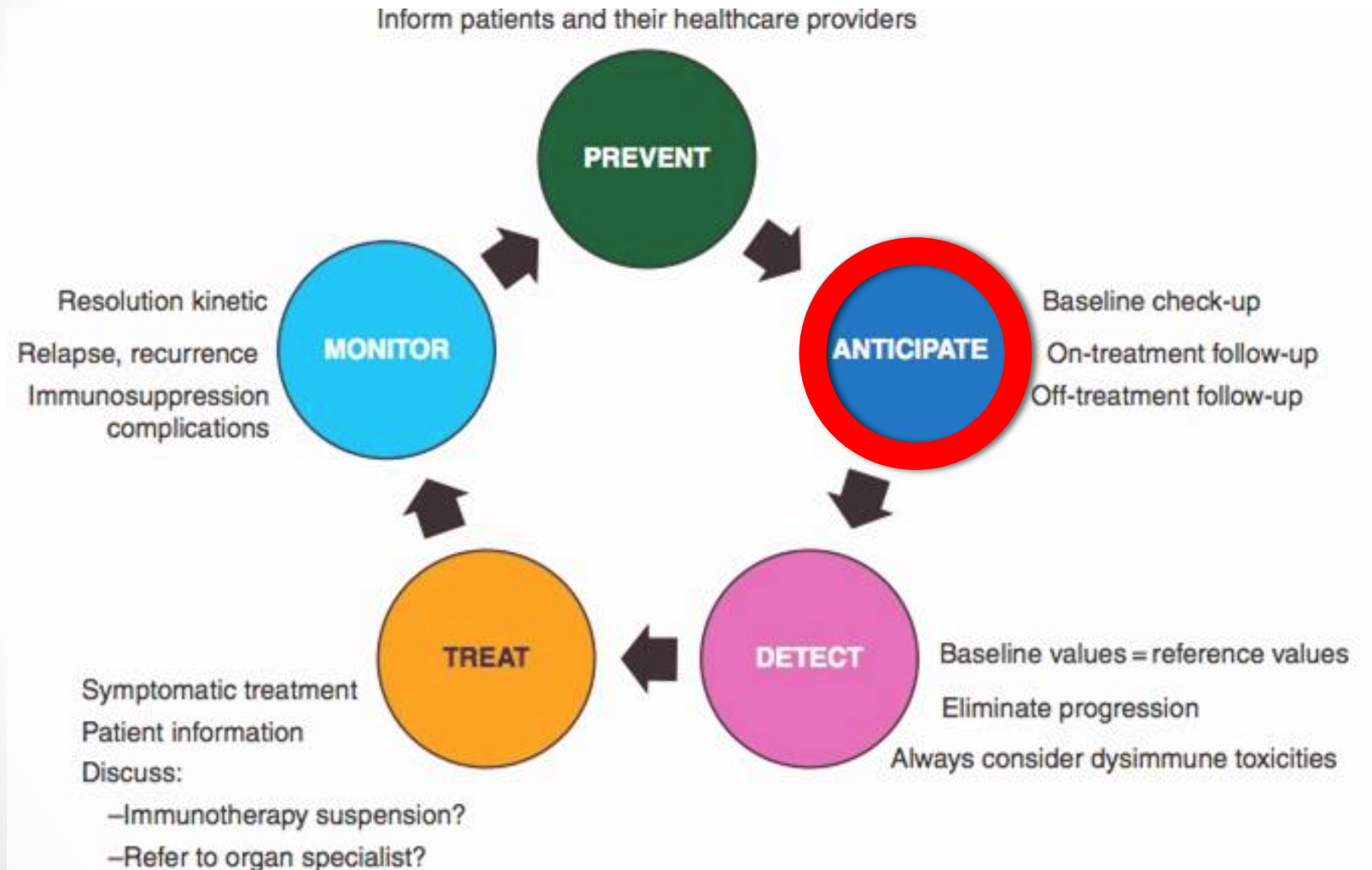
- IrAEs are **frequent**:
 - 90% of patients treated with CTLA4 antibody
 - 70% of patients treated with PD1/PDL1 inhibitors

But

- In most of the cases IrAEs are low or mild grade of severity
- Most of IrEAs are steroid-sensitive
- Most of IrEAs resolve within 6-12 weeks

- **Algorithms for the management of IrAEs are available!**

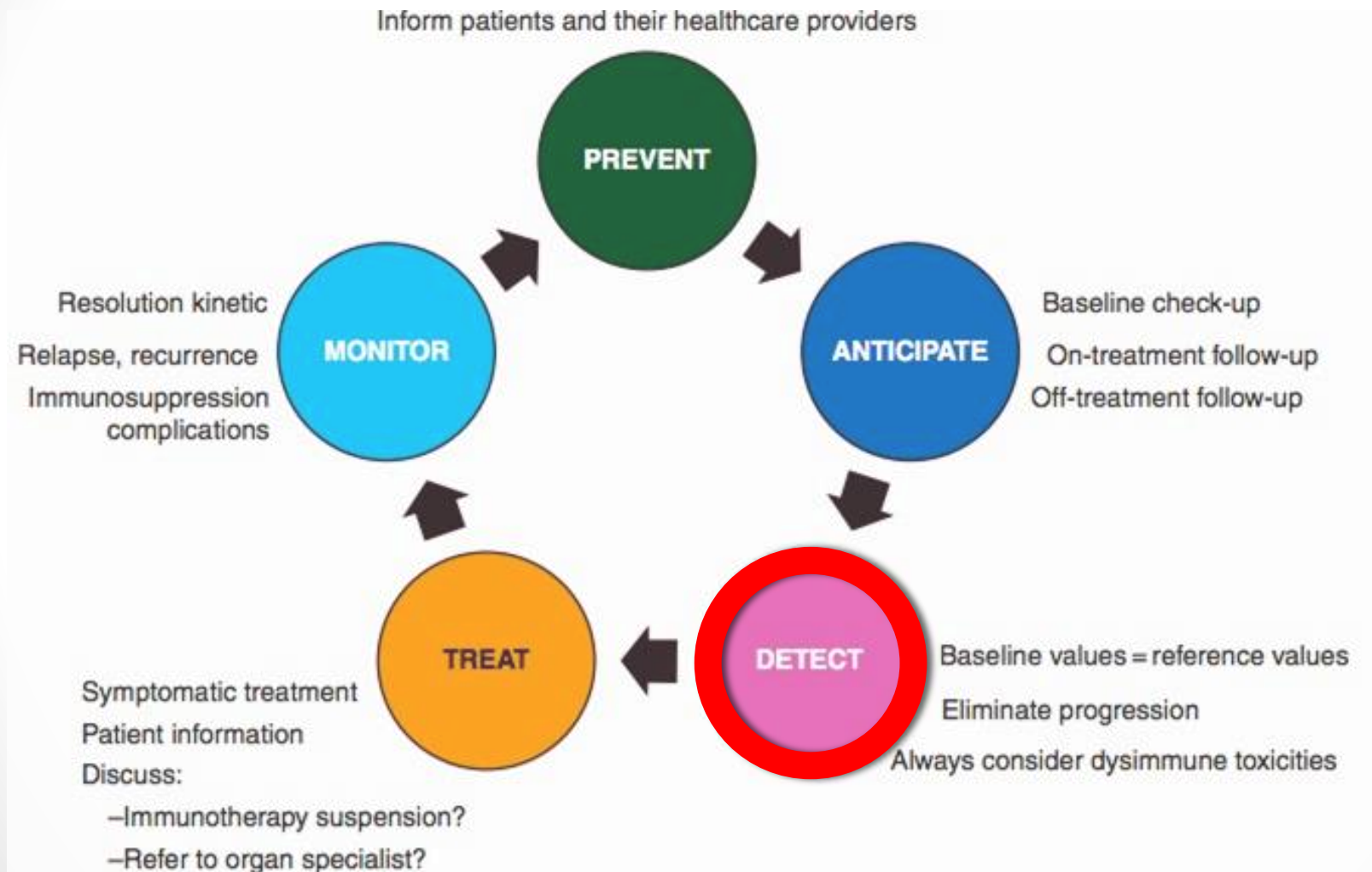
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Anticipate

- Report of toxicity sequelae from previous treatment
- Physical examination
- Baseline laboratory tests and imaging for comparison with same type of evaluation during the treatment
- Clinical and biological follow-up after treatment discontinuation

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Detect (1)

- Three potential etiologies for new symptoms occurrence or symptoms worsening during immunotherapy:
 1. Disease progression
 2. Fortuitous event
 3. Treatment-related dysimmune toxicity

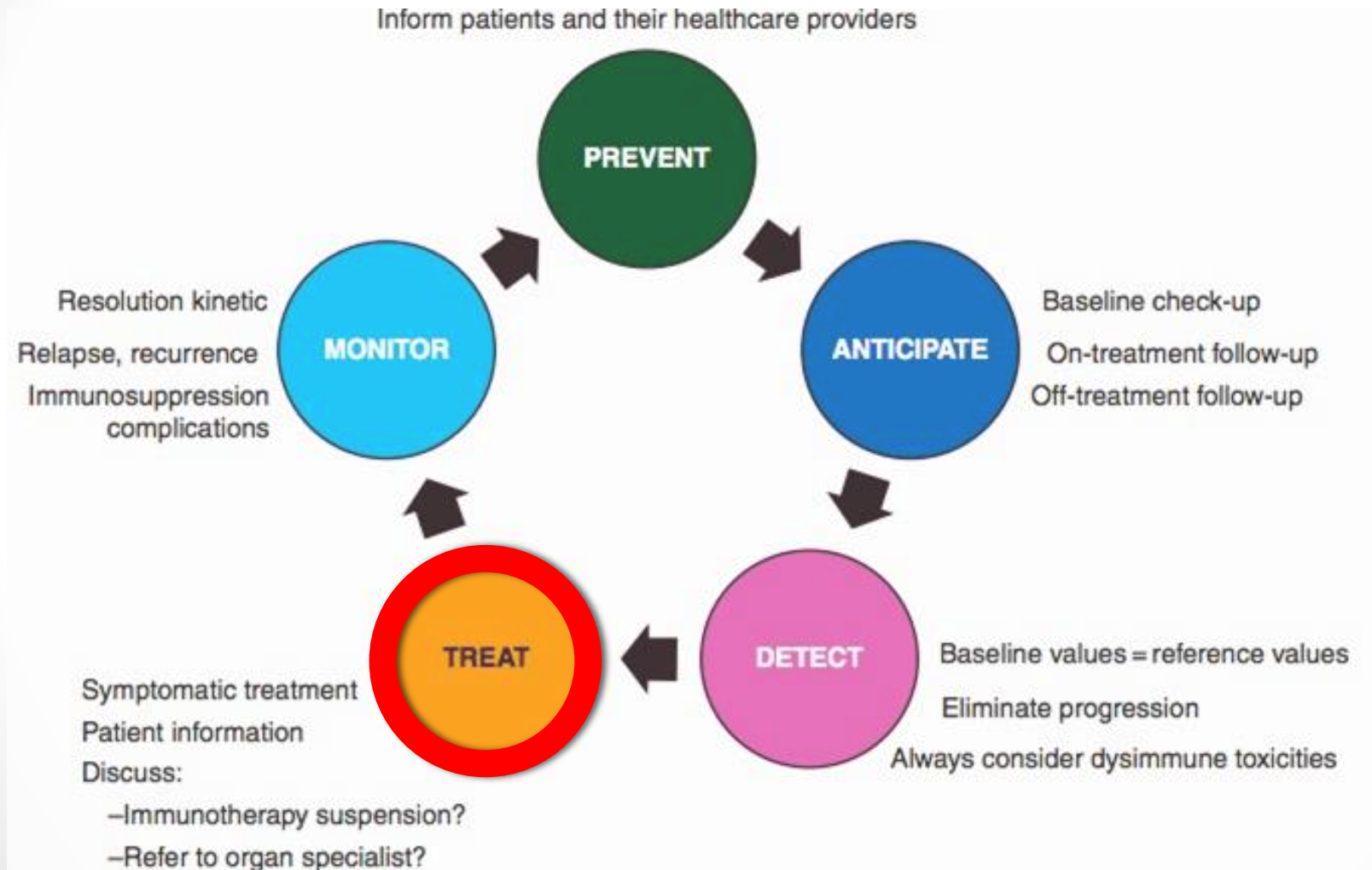
Keep in mind:

- The most frequent adverse events are related to disease progression
- Neglecting immune-related toxicities could be potentially fatal

Detect (2)

- Any new symptom or laboratory abnormality should be attentively monitored and appropriately explored
- Each IrAE has its own management protocol
- DO NOT manage an IrAEs in the same way of a chemotherapy toxicity

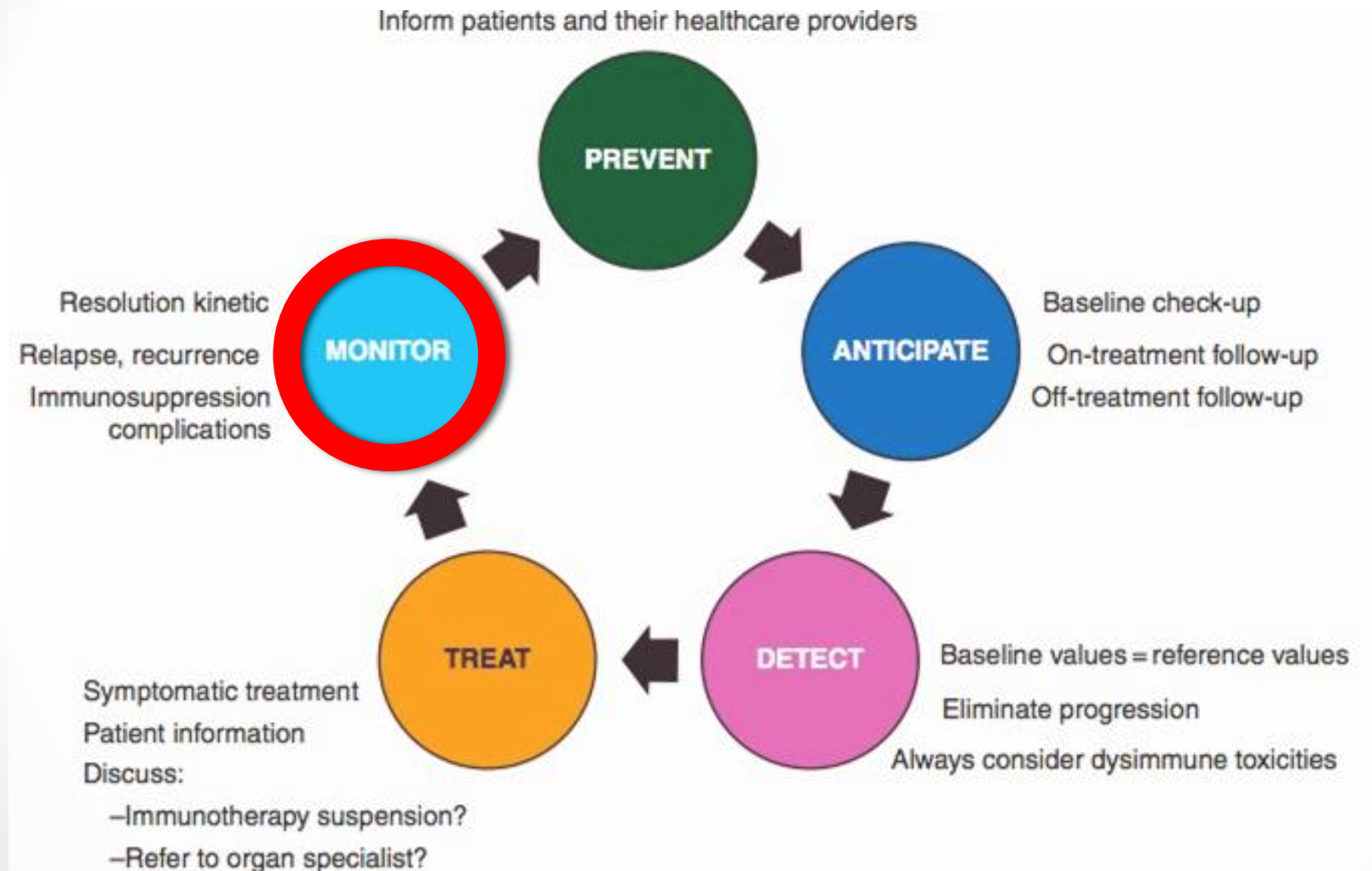
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Treat (1)

- Close monitoring
- Toxicity grading
- Ambulatory versus inpatient care
- Corticotherapy
- Other immunosuppressive drugs
- Immunotherapy suspension or termination
- Patient information and how to self-monitor clinical elements

The five pillars of immunotherapy toxicity management



Monitor (1)

- The time needed for IrAE resolution can highly vary across the various types of toxicities
- Preliminary data seem to show that systemic immunosuppressants used for IrAEs might not have such a negative impact on efficacy

The End

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